was chiefly through public opinion, which was very powerful, and by the various local organizations.

There was, as well, a body of statutory law issued in the form of a code. Although much narrower than *li,* it was supposed to conform to it. In a sense the introduction of written law was a departure from strict Confucian theory and, whether consciously or unconsciously, resembled, rather, the concepts of the Legalists of the Chou and the Han. Statutory law was perpetuated by dynasty after dynasty, like the form of the official hierarchy. Foi example, the Ch'ing adopted, with modifications, the code in use under the Ming. It was, of course, altered from time to time by imperial decree and showed marks of a distinct development.

The code was made up largely of what in the Occident would be called criminal and administrative law. Some items of civil law (proportionately not very numerous) were included in it. The code of the Ch'ing was called the *Ta Ch'ing Lii Li* and was composed, as the name indicates, of *lii* and *li.* The *lii* were fundamental laws based largely upon the Ming code. Promulgated early in the dynasty, in theory they remained unchanged. The *li* seem to have been introduced first by Hung Wu, of the Ming, and were an attempt to incorporate the results of judicial decisions in actual cases. They were also in the nature of supplementary statutes modifying and extending the *lu* and subject to periodical revision. /The *lu* were divided into seven main heads—general, civil, fiscal, ritual, military, and criminal laws, and laws concerning public works. The general section included principles applyr ing to the whole; the civil dealt with the system of government and the conduct of magistrates and regulated the succession to

hereditary titles; the fiscal related to such matters as inheritance and the census; the section on ritual had to do with state sacrifices and ceremonies; the military included the protection of the palace, the guarding of the frontier, and the equipping and provisioning of the army; and the section on public works provided for such undertakings as dikes and the examination and repair of public buildings.

Several features of the criminal law—the bulkiest portion of the *lii*—impress the modern Anglo-Saxon reader as different from the legal system under which he has lived. There was the principle of joint responsibility, by which, for a particularly heinous